How do I know if my surgeon is any good?

You don’t! If he is recommended by you local doctor ask what he is like. Ask the surgeon about his experience and outcomes with your type of surgery. If you have private insurance then he should provide you with a quote from your hospital and the hospital you are going to. In many states the government will provide you with a rebate for the surgery. You should compare these quotes and ask various surgeons about their experience and outcomes with your type of surgery. It is important to choose a surgeon who has experience in the problem that you need treated.

Will my surgeon be offended if I ask for another opinion?

No he should not be. You would always do your research before buying a TV why not do it for your Brain.

How do I find out how much I will be out of pocket from the hospital stay and from my health fund?

Ask your surgeon to provide you with a quote from your hospital and ask your fund to tell the rebate for the surgery. The initial fee would be around $150 with a rebate from medicare of $62.95 and a review would be about $80 with a rebate from medicare of $41.45.

Is it worthwhile to travel a long distance to see someone and to have surgery?

Yes go to WHAT TO ASK YOUR SURGEON WHERE CAN I FIND ANOTHER SURGEON?

What if I think my surgeon does not like me?

Ask yourself why and if it cannot be resolved find another one.

What should I do if I am confused about the surgery?

Look it up on the internet as you are doing but seek a further professional opinion as you must be totally clear as to what you are having and why it is needed.

What is a Neurosurgeon?

A Neurosurgeon is a specialist surgeon who has been trained in surgery on the spine and brain. They will have had training in brain tumours, and the management of some spinal conditions. Some will specialise in spinal surgery, some will specialise in neurovascular surgery. Some will specialise in the removal of tumours. A surgeon who does mostly brain tumour surgery specialises in NEUROSURGICAL ONCOLOGY. They will work at a hospital that does a lot of this type of surgery and will usually work in a Multi-Disciplinary Oncology Clinic.

How should you choose your surgeon?

In America where there are centres of expertise in a particular field it is common to cross the country for surgery in the public hospital.

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